

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PACIFIC REGION SUPPLEMENT 11-2003  
APPLICABLE TO INSTRUCTION 10-813  
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***Operations and Services  
Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts , NWSI 10-813***

***MAJURO TERMINAL AERODROME FORECAST***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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Wording changes for clarification.

Signed By 03/10/04  
R. J. LaDouce Date  
Director, Pacific Region

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1. **Description.** This Regional Supplement provides additional guidance on producing the Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) for the Marshall Islands International Airport (PKMJ) in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Forecasters must exercise initiative and professional judgment to minimize risk to the aviation community when written instructions do not provide specific answers for a particular situation. Personnel must balance safety and needs of customers while keeping in mind the aviators’ need to continue travel and commerce. Protection of life and property will take precedence.
  
2. **Background.**
  - 2.1 **PKMR Surface Aviation Observations.** Surface aviation routine observations (METARS) and surface aviation special observations (SPECI) are taken at the Weather Service Office (WSO) in Majuro (PKMR). Observations taken at the WSO are 5.2 nautical miles away from the center of the runway complex at the Marshall Islands International Airport.
  
  - 2.2 **PKMJ Surface Supplemental Aviation Weather Reporting Station (SAWRS) Observations.** SAWRS observations are taken at the Marshall Islands International Airport on an irregular schedule. A SAWRS is a facility where weather observations are taken, prepared, and transmitted by a local operator (NWS certified) under federal government supervision. A SAWRS is established at an airport when the FAA has determined that the weather observations are needed to satisfy Federal Aviation Regulations, Parts 121 or 135, or for the safe conduct of other aircraft operations.
  
3. **Definition.**
  - 3.1 **Adequate Surface Observation for Aviation Operations.** An adequate surface observation for aviation operations is one containing the following elements: wind (speed and direction), visibility, weather and obstructions to vision, sky condition, ceiling heights, temperature, dew point, and altimeter setting.

4. **Policy.**

- 4.1 **The TAF for the Marshall Islands International Airport in Majuro.** Majuro Atoll is a small flat island, so terrain effects on weather are minimal (see appendix A) . Analysis of PKMJ and PKMR observations have shown that there is very little difference between observations at the two sites. The designated Weather Forecast Office (WFO) responsible for the issuance of the PKMJ TAF will issue or continue TAFs for Majuro International Airport if adequate surface observations for aviation operations are available from *either* PKMJ or PKMR. This is in the spirit of the Total Observation Concept (TOC) articulated in the National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-813, section 5.2.

**APPENDIX A**



**Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands**